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MARRIAGE.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS IN VARIOUS NATIONS.

The condition of women in all countries has afforded a fruitful theme for the observations of the traveller, and the speculations of the philosopher and the novelist. It has been uniformly found that the savage is the tyrant of the female sex, while the position and consideration given to women are advanced in proportion to the refinement of social life. Under the laws of Lycurgus, Numa, and even later lawgivers, the power of the husband over his wife was absolute, sometimes even including the power of life and death. The wife was always defined and treated as a thing, not a person—the absolute property of her lord. In the earlier ages a man might sell his children or wife indifferently, and relics of this rude custom still survive, even among nations called civilized and Christian.

In the countries of the east, where polygamy is almost universal, marriage is not the sacred tie which it is held to be in Christian countries. In Persia men marry either for life or for a determined time. Travellers or merchants commonly apply to the magistrate for a wife during their residence in any place, the Cadi producing a number of girls for a selection, whom he declares to be honest and healthy. Four wives are permitted to each husband in Persia, and the same number is allowed by the Mohammedan law to the Mussulman.

In Chinese Tartary a kind of male polygamy is highly respected. In Tibet it is customary for the brothers of a family to have a wife in common, and they generally live in harmony and comfort with her. Among the Caluucks the ceremony is performed on horseback. The girl is first mounted and permitted to ride off at full speed, when a lover takes a horse and gallops after her. If he overtakes her she becomes his wife, and the marriage is consummated on the spot. It is said that no instance is known of a girl ever being overtaken unless she really is fond of her lover.

The Arabs divide their affections between their horses and their wives, and regard the purity of blood in the former as much as in their offspring. Polygamy is practiced only by the rich, and divorce is rare.

In Ceylon the marriage proposal is brought about by the man first sending to her whom he wishes to become his wife to buy her clothes. These she sells for a stipulated sum, generally asking as much as she thinks requisite for her to begin the world with. In the evening he calls on her with the wardrobe, at her father's house and they pass the night in each other's company. Next morning, if mutually satisfied, they are permitted to separate whenever they please, and so frequent marriages are celebrated, and so frequent divorces are granted, that the natives to the burning sun, which ripens men and women as well as plants at the earliest period in those tropical latitudes, is assigned as the cause. The distinguishing marks of the Hindoo wife are the most profound fidelity, submission and attachment to her husband.

On the banks of the Senegal, and among many African tribes, the matrimonial prize most sought after is abundance of flesh. To obtain corpulence is regarded as the only real comeliness. A female who moves with the aid of two men is but a moderate beauty, while the lady who cannot stir, and is only to be moved on a camel, is esteemed as a perfect paragon. Nor is this queer fancy for obesity in common confined to the savage of the torrid zone, since we read in Wraxall's "Travels in Russia," that, "in order to possess any eminent degree of loveliness, a woman must weigh at least two hundred weight." The Empress Elizabeth and Catherine II., both accounted very fine women, were of this massive kind.

In Italy matches are made with proverbial levity, and marriage vows, if report speaks true, are easily broken. Young virgins are systematically bartered and sold by their parents, and young people are married who never saw each other before. Concubinage is a constant remedy for these ill-advised and deceitful marriages, and the peculiar Italian custom indicates the indemnity which custom prescribes for the fair sex fettered to husbands unloved.

In France, as has often been remarked, woman monopolizes all the society, and a large share of the business of life. The coffee-houses, the theatres, the shops, the cabarets or drinking-shops, are filled with women. Women lord it at all assemblies, and are better informed and more capable managers than men. Marriage is looked upon not so much as a matter of affection as of interest, and the sacredness of the tie is proportionately slender.

Russia appears to be the most barbarous country in Europe in its treatment of the marriage relation. The nuptial ceremonies, all and singular, are based upon the idea of the degradation of the female. When the parents have agreed upon the match, the bride is examined by number of women to see if she has any bodily defects. On her wedding day she is crowned with a garland of wormwood, to denote the bitterness of the married state. She is exhorted to be obedient to her husband, and it is a custom in some districts for the newly-married wife to present the bridegroom with a whip, in token of submission, and with this she seldom fails to show his authority. In that cold, cruel country, husbands are sometimes known to torture their wives to death, without any punishment for the murder. If a woman proves barren, the husband generally prevails on her to retire into a convent, and leave him at liberty. If he fails in his persuasion, he is permitted to whip her into obedience.

Such is the slavery in which the Muscovites are kept by their parents and guardians that they are not allowed to dispute any union agreed upon by their elders, however odious or incompatible it may be. This extends so far that officers in the army are not permitted to marry without the consent of the sovereign, and wives they do not want are sometimes forced upon them.

Whether it be the result of this system of oppression or of their savage climate, or of the unnatural, hot air of their stove heated apartments, it is certain that a more unlovely set of women than the Russian would be difficult to find. "They want," says an English traveller, "the genuine flavor which only nature can give."

That charming firmness and elasticity of flesh so indispensably requisite to constitute beauty, and so delicious to the touch, exists not among the Russian females, or in very few of them. We are told of the Aleutian Islanders, who form a part of our new Russian-American acquisition, that they marry one, two or three wives, as they have the means of supporting them. The bridegroom takes the bride upon trial, and may return her to her parents should he not be satisfied, but cannot demand his presents back. No man is allowed to sell his wife without her consent, but he may, and often does, assign her over to another. This custom, it is said, is availed of by the Russian hunters, who take Aleutian girls for a trifling compensation.—Wash. Republican.

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THE FAVORITE HOME REMEDY.

This unrivaled Medicine is warranted not to contain one single particle of Mercury, or any injurious mineral substance, but is

PURELY VEGETABLE. containing those Southern Roots and Herbs, which an all-wise Providence has placed in countries where Liver Diseases most prevail. It will cure all Diseases caused by Derangement of the Liver and Bowels.

SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR, OR

MEDICINE. Is eminently a Family Medicine; and by being kept ready for immediate resort will save many an hour of suffering and many a dollar in time and doctors' bills.

After over Forty Years' trial it is still receiving the most unqualified testimonials to its virtues from persons of the highest character and responsibility. Eminent physicians commend it as the most

EFFECTUAL SPECIFIC FOR DYSPEPSIA

OR INDIGESTION. Armed with this ANTIDOTE, all climates and changes of water and food may be faced without fear. As a Remedy in Malarious Fevers, Bowel Complaints, Restlessness, Jaundice, Nausea, IT HAS NO EQUAL.

It is the Cheapest, Purest and Best Family Medicine in the World! Manufactured only by **J. H. ZEILIN & CO.,** Macon, Georgia, and Philadelphia.

Price \$1.00. Sold by all Druggists. mh 9

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GLASSES, PAINTS, OILS, DYE STUFFS,

GARDEN SEED, &c., &c.

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Physicians' Prescriptions carefully compounded. Orders will receive prompt attention. mh 24-4f

H. H. COOK, HENRY COOK & CO.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

PURE DRUGS AND MEDICINES,

PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, OILS,

GLASS AND PUTTY. No. 107 King street.

Prompt attention given to orders and inquiries from the country. Jan 30

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S. LEADBEATER & BROS.

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Orders and Inquiries from the country promptly attended to. sep 23-4f

HAIR GOODS.

ARTISTICAL HAIR WORK, HAIR

DESIGNS, &c.—SPECIALTY OF WIGS

AND TOUPEES.

No. 805 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MANNER OF TAKING MEASURE FOR A WIG: Inches.

1. Whole size around the head.....

2. From ear to ear, over the top.....

3. From ear to ear, over the crown.....

4. Over the head and forehead to nose.....

5. Width of the forehead from ear to ear.....

FOR A TOUPEE:

Send a piece of thin paper the exact size of the bald place, measuring from No. 5, as per above diagram, and extending back as far as the bald place extends.

For the accommodation of our friends of the city of Alexandria, I will receive their orders at my residence, corner Fairfax and Gibson streets. mh 16-1m

BUILDING MATERIAL.

VIRGINIA SASH, DOOR AND FRAME

FACTORY

AND PLANING MILL,

N. E. COR. FAIRFAX AND QUEEN STS.

READY-MADE WORK

constantly on hand, such as

DOORS, SASHES, BLINDS, FRAMES,

MOULDINGS, BRACKETS, NEW-

ELS, BALUSTERS, &c., &c. Will buy and trade for Walnut and Ash Logs.

RISHELL & HOOGE, feb 10

Alexandria, Virginia.

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B. F. PEAKE & CO.,

(Successors to Jas. W. Nalls, Son & Co.)

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and those contemplating painting is invited to our unusually large stock of Colors, Oils, Leads, Brushes, &c., which we are prepared to sell at the very lowest figures.

HENRY COOK & CO., mh 23

107 King street.

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PANIC! PANIC! PANIC!

DRY GOODS

LOWER DOWN THAN EVER!

Immense Auctions in New York!

TREMENDOUS LOSSES TO THE IMPORTERS!

LANSBURGH & BRO.

AHEAD OF ALL!

We have just returned from New York with a new, fresh and desirable stock of goods, amounting to over

\$400,000!

WHICH WE WILL SELL AT ONCE WITH-
OUT REGARD TO VALUE.

Special Offerings, Comprising:

BLACK AND COLORED SILKS.

1200 pieces BLACK MOHAIRS and ALPACAS, of our own importation, cheaper than any house in the country.

DRESS GOODS of every description.

3000 11-4 MARSEILLES SPREADS at \$2.25; cheap at \$4.

50 pieces TABLE LINEN, at 50 and 60c, worth double.

1000 Long and Square PAISLEY SHAWLS, at \$10 and \$15.

1800 LLAMA LACE POINTS and JACKETS.

These goods we guarantee to sell much less than the cost of importation, having bought them during the panic in November last.

1500 dozen LINEN NAPKINS, at \$1 per doz.

50 pieces full width BARNLEY all Linen SHEETING, at 75 and 80c, worth \$1.25.

300 pieces IRISH LINEN, at 30c and upwards.

500 pieces Magnificent SPRING REPS, for Wrappers, at 18c per yard.

200 pieces yard wide FRENCH PERCALE, neat figures and striped, at 12 1/2c, worth 18c.

1000 pieces best GINGHAMS at 12 1/2c, worth 18c.

8-4 Bleached UTICA SHEETING, at 40c.

10-4 Bleached SHEETING, at 25c.

1000 pieces best BLACK and WHITE PRINTS, at 7c.

1500 pieces best COLORED PRINTS, at 9c.

20 cases 4-4 ANDROSOGGIN COTTON, at 13c per yard.

We guarantee every article as represented, and are vain enough to say that we are selling

GREAT BARGAINS.

Call at once, and convince yourselves that we are not bankrupt, but will undersell any so-called BANKRUPT TRAVELLING CONCERN.

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Nos. 404 and 406 Seventh st.,

ap 3-1m WASHINGTON, D. C.

OYSTERS AND FISH DEALERS.

NOTICE OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

We, the undersigned, have formed a co-partnership for the purpose of conducting the FISH BUSINESS, in all its branches, under the name and style of J. S. COGSWILL & CO. We can be found at our stalls, in the market, or at our Packing House, on the Fish Wharf, fronting on Union Street. All orders sent to us will receive prompt attention.

Can be found at our stalls, Nos. 2 and 1, Market square.

J. S. COGSWILL,

J. G. GRIMES,

JOHN W. HENDERSON,

JOHN W. TRAVERS.

C O P A R T N E R S H I P.

The undersigned have this day formed a co-partnership under the name and firm of

W. A. JOHNSON & CO.,

for the purpose of conducting the

POTOMAC FISH BUSINESS

in all its branches, the old stand of W. A. Johnson, Fish wharf, and all orders entrusted to them will receive their special attention.

Their well known reputation in the above business is offered as an inducement to customers, who may depend on getting what they order.

W. A. JOHNSON,

W. JAVINS,

W. H. SMITH,

G. E. PRICE.

feb 13-3m

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JOHN STONE, on the Strand, near the Oyster Dock, will supply his customers with OYSTERS, fresh from the shell, at 70c per gallon. Give him a call. jan 15

OYSTERS.

JOHN S. COGSWILL,

At his Oyster House, opposite the Gazette office, is prepared to furnish OYSTERS to all who may desire them. All orders from the country will receive prompt attention. sep 13

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LITTLE FOLKS, new volume; \$1.25.

PUCK, by Ouida, new edition; \$1.50.

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New Books, Magazines and Papers daily.

G. E. FRENCH. ap 3

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THE STOCK OF A NEW YORK WHOLE-

SALE HOUSE AT AUCTION—IMPORT-

ANT TO THE TRADE AND PUBLIC—

OVER \$175,000 WORTH OF FOREIGN

AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS AT AUCTION—GREAT BANKRUPT SALE OF DRY GOODS.

By GREEN & WILLIAMS, Auctioneers,

At their Auction Rooms, corner Tenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, commencing MON-

DAY, March 23, 1874.

A large consignment of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, consisting of West of England, French and German Broad and Narrow Woolen Cloths, of all shades and colors; French, English and Scotch Fancy Tweeds and Cassimeres; Fur-back, Moscow and Esquimaux Beavers, Chinchillas, Vestings, Cloakings, &c.; also, Scotch, French and German Paisley, Cashmere, Queensland, Ottoman, Lace and other fashionable and desirable Shawls. Dress Goods in great variety, such as Black and Colored Silks, Satins, Irish and Lyons Poplins, all-wool Moraines, Delaines, Sateen Cloths, Serges, elegant imported Plaids, Alpaca, Empress Cloths, &c. A very rich and rare assortment of Lyons Silk Velvets, Velveteens and fine Plush Suitings, Prints, Bleached and Unbleached Cottons, from one to three yards wide; a large line of English and American Blankets, Flannels; Ladies', Gents' and Children's Hosiery, Gloves, &c.; together with a very choice and well-selected stock of Velvets, Brussels, Aixminster Tapestry and Ingrain Carpetings, Rugs, &c., Damask and Nottingham Lace Curtains, Table and other Linens, Napkins, Turkey red, &c., from medium to finest imported; Marseilles and Turkish Quilts, and a variety of other goods too numerous to mention.

Sale to continue from day to day until the entire stock is disposed of—the whole to be sold without reserve, in lots to suit all for cash.

Sales will commence daily at 10 a. m., and 2 and 7 p. m.

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FIFTY DOZEN

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